

2308

Part
1957

National Council

Christian Faith in Action



The Churches Working Together



The year 1950 will be one of the great milestones of Christian progress. It will mark another momentous forward step by American churches to advance God's Kingdom through united action.

This is the year when the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. will be born after nine years of planning. Twenty-five communions — Protestant and Eastern Orthodox — will erect this capstone of the arch of cooperative Christianity at a great convention at Cleveland, Ohio, November 28 — December 1.

Hundreds of church people — clergy and laity — representing the denominations, together with visiting delegates from cities and towns across America will share this great moment in religious history.

On the following Sunday, December 3, the members of these denominations, in their own parishes, will take part in services of rededication and will give thanks to God for leading them to a greater spirit of unity and purpose in exalting Christ.

The following pages both symbolize and interpret the major developments in the emergence of the National Council of the Churches of Christ as a new expression and instrument of cooperative power for facing as Christians together the tasks of today and tomorrow.

THE CONSTITUTING COMMUNIONS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.

THE METHODIST CHURCH NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, U.S.A. INC.
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A. DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
 THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH NORTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
 CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 THE EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S. AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH
 COLORED METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
 UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF N. A. CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
 REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS — FIVE YEARS MEETING
 ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH MORAVIAN CHURCH (NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN PROVINCE)
 UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF AMERICA SYRIAN ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
 SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF PHILADELPHIA AND VICINITY
 EVANGELICAL UNITY OF CZECH-MORAVIAN BRETHREN IN N. A.



Church Cooperation Moves Forward

A WORLD OF CONFUSION

We live in a broken and bewildered world, still staggering from the effects of the two most devastating wars in history and the impact of two godless forces, fascism and communism. We struggle with national and international problems that sometimes seem beyond human capacity to solve. The pressure of secularism has led us too often to compromise our standards of honor, integrity, reverence, and devotion to the highest good. Our scientific and material achievements are amazing but they are superficial. Our ethical and spiritual gains have not kept pace, resulting in moral and social unbalance. Many men and women are coming to see all this, but know not how to help themselves and their fellows.

AND HUNGER OF HEART

The churches are aware of the role they should be playing in this great drama of human destiny. To meet the tragic heart hunger of humanity

they have been marshalling their forces and striving valiantly. There have been splendid accomplishments in overseas relief, in home and foreign missions, in evangelism, and in Christian education. Church membership is at an all-time high and total contributions last year exceeded for the first time the billion dollar mark. But this is no time for self-congratulation. Facing present world situations, more is required than can be hoped for from the best efforts of churches and denominations working separately. From all across the land has come with mounting insistence a call for unity of action by which our highest Christian purposes may be advanced far beyond present realizations.

EVOKE A NEW PROPOSAL

Out of all these facts and forces has emerged a plan of united action, cooperative in spirit and in structure, deeply rooted in the spirit of Christ — The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. It radiates hope and courage. God willing, it will provide an effective



PASSERSBY HEAR a Gospel as meaningful on the street corner as it is in the sanctuary. Below, GIVING IS faith, faith in action, faith in mankind.



channel for the releasing of tremendous latent reserves of Christian power in our churches, to be applied to the tasks of salvation and service.

FOR WORKING TOGETHER

Until the nineteenth century, Protestantism was concerned mainly with carrying out the Reformation principle of freedom for the individual and the group. Then the resultant separate churches began to feel their common responsibility for missionary enterprise and an ethical impact upon the total community. The immensity of the task and the weakness of unrelated attempts to master it have led to steadily increasing efforts to provide maximum mutual encouragement and support through cooperation without surrendering the right to differ among themselves in minor matters of creed and polity.

Quest for United Action

BEGINNINGS OF COOPERATION

Significantly, the first known instance of such activity in America was when a group of laymen, in 1832, held a National Sunday School Convention on an interdenominational basis for mutual helpfulness and inspiration. This was the forerunner of the International Council of Religious Education (1872) which today maintains a vast and many-sided program aimed to bring children, youth and adults into Christian discipleship. A pattern of consultation already set on many foreign mission fields led to the establishment of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America in 1893 and a series of ecumenical missionary conferences beginning in 1900.

The Missionary Education Movement of the United States and Canada was organized by home and foreign mission boards in 1902. In 1908, the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America was organized by the denominations themselves, and related to it there have since developed over 800 city, county and state councils of churches. Functional cooperation has been advanced by the formation of the Home Missions Council of North America in 1908, the National Protestant Council on Higher Education in

1911, and the United Stewardship Council in 1920, all founded by denominational boards to make their work more effective. Finally there came into being the United Council of Church Women in 1941, joining the specialized women's activities of the national bodies with the development of activity among women in their home localities.

CALL FOR THE NEXT STEP

This is not enough. As these cooperative agencies evolved their programs from the point of view of their own special fields, they found overlappings and uncertain divisions of responsibility, particularly among those serving in the United States. Cooperative action has been found to be effective, and also to be rich in reflected benefits to local churches and communities in support of their own aims and undertakings. Out of the total experience has

come the conviction that still more can be gained by uniting all these agencies of the denominations into one council, with the same functions provided for and clearly assigned to different units within the whole.

The Larger Strategy

UNFINISHED TASKS

Great unfinished tasks await us as we enter the second half of the "fabulous twentieth century," calling for the mobilization of all our spiritual insights and energies. For example, there are fifteen million boys and girls between the ages of five and seven not reached by religious education, which has been declared the most effective means for fighting juvenile delinquency. At least 5,000 new Protestant

In meeting life's daily problems, men in the factory, as well as in the office and on the farm gain strength from the Gospel.



Ten Reasons For The Council

1. Because this generation faces overwhelming problems and disruptive forces that challenge the total efforts of the Christian church.
2. Because the Council gives a channel for more than 27,000,000 church members to work together to meet that challenge.
3. Because these 25 denominations are already dedicated to one essential purpose—to make Christ known, loved and served throughout the world.
4. Because cooperation provides maximum mutual encouragement and support in the pursuit of common objectives.
5. Because a central cooperative agency facilitates the best use of personnel, time and energy for strategic consultations.
6. Because it focuses the best insights of Christian men and women on critical areas of moral and spiritual concern.
7. Because effective integration accomplishes far more than uncoordinated actions.
8. Because Protestant Christians can speak more effectively with a common voice through the press, radio, and other mass media.
9. Because it will encourage more effective cooperation of Christian forces in local community life.
10. Because it is a significant step toward the fulfilment of Christ's prayer for his followers: "That they all may be one."



church buildings and 10,000 new church school buildings are required if we are to have even minimum standards of space and equipment for our Christian worship, education and service. Many of these must be in new population centers. There are 700 community or residential developments each containing at least 2,500 persons, which have not as yet a single church. In more general terms, such areas of life as the home and family, labor relationships, economic issues, inter-racial fellowship, missionary responsibility, a deeper sense of stewardship, international justice and good-will, and a true and lasting world peace all demand the coordination of our best efforts in seeking to apply Christian principles to human problems.

REVEAL NEED FOR UNITY

Feeling the urgency of our Christian calling, leaders of our cooperative agencies for the past nine years have been exploring the possibilities of still closer unity of administration and action for greater effectiveness in the task of enriching the spiritual meaning and content of modern life. This has called for vision and skill of a high order, as well as devotion to the ideal. Each agency has had to consider thoughtfully its own particular responsibilities and how they might be both safeguarded and better served in the coordinated program. And the denominations, one by one, have studied the proposals and given approval. Now these preparatory steps are completed, and there emerges in full prospect, an imposing structure of cooperative Christianity in America, planning to work through a more effective instrument representing its united strength: THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Not a Goal But a Gateway

SPIRITUAL FOUNDATIONS NECESSARY

The inauguration in 1950 of a National Council of the Churches will be the most significant act of coordination and cooperation in three centuries of worthy tradition, a consummation of immediate and practical importance

for all of American Church life. But it is not an end, inviting relaxation. It is rather a new beginning, under stern circumstances, and calling for our utmost endeavor. Let us consider this a year of opportunity, which God in His infinite plan, has set before us. Let this be a summons to prayer, to reconsecration, to a renewal of zeal, to realistic efforts to achieve greater religious vitality. Without genuine spiritual motivation, all the organization and machinery is useless. But when in fullest fellowship our Christian tasks are performed better, when our local churches are strengthened and encouraged, when the outreach of our Christian love is broadened and deepened, then our whole nation and our contemporary world are made both nobler and stronger.

A Time for Dedication

THIS MUST BE A YEAR OF DECISION

We can make 1950 a year of decision which will be for the participating churches not only the turning point of a half century, but the beginning of new accomplishment in leading mankind away from the pathway of frustration and destruction, and toward the true pathway of peace and happiness. The birth of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. at Cleveland, Nov. 28 will be more than the establishment of a new organization; it will be the culmination and symbol of the efforts of the Churches; it should initiate a new spiritual crusade. It will summon us all to have a part in a more determined effort to exalt Christ and His way of life at a crucial moment in history. On Sunday morning, Dec. 3 in your church — in fellowship with millions of others in other parishes across America — will you join with heart and mind and soul in a great united commitment to Christ and His Church? Will you do all in your power to help this new expression and embodiment of cooperative Christianity to lead America and the world on the highway of dedication to one great purpose — the finding and the doing of God's will in all areas of life?



THE CHURCHES provide a practical answer to needs in the big city slum.



"I WAS in prison and ye came unto me." Below, PUPPETS, KLEIG lights and grease paint tell the ageless story in new, fascinating and skillful ways.





Christian History in the Making

It is a great story of achievement and opportunity — the total of all that the Churches have done and are doing in the life of this country and of the world. Of course they came to this new land with the Founding Fathers. Their faith and practice helped set the patterns for a new democracy. They were the pioneers in developing education. They have always been in the forefront of efforts to improve conditions of living, to render intelligent and constructive help to the oppressed or the handicapped, and to spread around the whole world the influences of the Christian Gospel.

In a number of fields of special interest, the Churches have for many years been joining forces through existing interdenominational agencies or organizations, thus multiplying their effectiveness through a united approach.

Eight interdenominational agencies have been working at various phases of this united task. When the work of these eight agencies is brought together in the National Council of Churches there will be new coordination and more effective direction of a cooperative program, the size and range of which few have understood.



THE LEADERS of many communions worship and work together.

First—Evangelism

In the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ, we find many denominations joining for a great nationwide emphasis upon evangelism. This, to be sure, is basic for all other Christian activities. In scores of local communities preaching missions are held under the auspices of the cooperating local churches, which, together with correlated personal work, result in new or renewed decisions for Christ and the strengthening of the life of each church. Another department of the Federal Council is concerned for the issues of international good-will and world peace, issues in which only the united voice of the Christian conscience can be effective. Through study pamphlets, public meetings and seminars, and in all other possible ways, the Christian implications of international relations are kept before the eyes and minds of the churches, their members, and the general public. Race relations, economic justice, mental health, and other major matters are dealt with sympathetically and constructively in their respective departments.

Many-sided Ministries

We all know that throughout this country, as well as in Alaska and our island responsibilities, there are many special groups unable to meet their own pressing problems of financial inadequacy, social instability, ill health, undernourishment, and spiritual emptiness. Such people are a primary concern of our cooperating churches. Through the Home Missions Council there is coordination of activities among them, including the provision of churches, schools, and hospitals. On the more personal side, representatives of the churches work among them as friendly counsellors, and as experts in particular problem areas. We might cite for instance service among the Indians, suffering from illiteracy, poverty, and illness, among the sharecroppers in the South, and among the migrant agricultural workers throughout the nation. A more recent development is service to people in the temporary towns connected with great public works projects, who need and welcome the ministries of the Churches. New housing developments must have churches as well as schools, shopping and recreational

centers. All these situations present unlimited opportunities for cooperative planning and integrated action, and for many years the leaders of thirty-seven mission boards of twenty-two denominations have been consulting and working together in the great task of carrying the Christian witness to neglected areas.

Shaping Young Lives

The children and youth of our land hold all our promise for the future. They need far more than just good health and the secular shaping of their thoughts and lives by their school programs and almost more definitively by the powerful influences of the comics, the radio, the movies, and now television. Religious education is the strategic counter influence, and through the International Council, the churches working together are providing material and skilled leadership for church schools, week-day religious education, and vacation Bible schools. Much attention is also given to family life education, and service activities among children and young people. Summer youth conferences have had a great part in influencing boys and





girls toward commitment to the Christian life, often for full-time service in the church at home or overseas. With the character and spirit of the coming generations at stake, there is a remarkable pooling of resources on the part of the denominations to share in the Christian growth of children, youth, and adults.

Campus Influences

Our colleges and universities have in their care and keeping, for some of the most truly formative years of their lives, hundreds of thousands of the finest young people of the country. Too often the general influences on campus and in classroom are strongly secular and materialistic. In this situation the churches are working to present convincingly and creatively the claims of the Christian faith. Through the National Protestant Council on Higher Education the churches are joining their forces to work unitedly at this task. Religious centers are maintained on almost all campuses. There is fine cooperation in providing the best possible college preaching, and in arranging seminars and conferences for students where they can be helped to think

through for themselves the spiritual values of life, and to organize their own thoughts with relation to the various attitudes and philosophies with which they are surrounded.

Trusteeship of Life

All these interests and activities listed above, as well as others yet to be cited, are dependent upon the full moral and financial support of the men and women of our individual churches. The Christian faith assumes the dedication of the whole person — his time and his abilities, as well as his money and material possessions. The United Stewardship Council is the agency through which the stewardship leaders of twenty-eight communions share their methods and materials for greater effectiveness in the promotion of the practice of systematic and proportionate giving to Christ, each through his own church. This is vastly more than a mere mechanical system of tithing. Through research and publication, through field work and special counselling, this entire subject is being set before our people with increasing effectiveness, and with important practical results.

Women at Work

It is recognized that women exert a tremendous influence, and it was a great day for the Christian church when its women banded themselves together interdenominationally in a United Council. Through this means they have stimulated interest in and provided active support for all the many primary issues and undertakings of our Christian churches. Through their channels to the local communities they have added fresh vision and zest to all that the churches have been trying to do together on social problems, world issues, and the need for a truly Christian approach to modern life. The results of their united fellowship and action in local communities is one of the highest testimonies to the power that lies in unity among Christians. They have promoted three annual events which have become fixtures in our religious calendar; the World Day of Prayer, on the first Friday in Lent; World Community Day, in November, when special emphasis has been put upon overseas relief; and May Fellowship Day, which observance highlights the ecumenical movement. The work of the women will be even wider in its influence and outreach as they become part of the National Council.

Outreach Overseas

While none of the activities so briefly sketched is strictly limited within our national borders, because all have world-wide inferences if not active connections, the main undertakings of our churches overseas have been through their denominational mission boards. Increasingly for the past fifty-seven years their individual programs have been coordinated and jointly planned through the Foreign Missions Conference. The field of Christian fellowship and ministry, of course, is the world. And we feel a particular obligation to those parts of the world where the Gospel is still a new message proclaiming a new and different way of life. Since the very first days of the Christian experience, men have heard the call to "come over into Macedonia and help us." In Africa, and Asia, and Latin America, the stronger churches of Europe and America have estab-



SKILLED HANDS healing with compassion touch the soul as well as the body. Below, From across the land Christians respond to the call for unity of action behind the Cross to help build a just and durable peace.





MANY VOICES. in many tongues join in praise to the One Father of all.



LITERACY AND CHRISTIAN literature are the tools for the conquest of men's souls. Below, PLANNING AND labor as well as love build a church.



lished their preaching stations, their schools, their hospitals. These have been the radiating foci of new ideals. The ministries to the sick and the institution of public health measures have not only wrought marvels of healing and physical betterment, and laid the foundations of modern medicine in many countries, but they have demonstrated in most dramatic fashion the full meaning of Christian love for all men. In all parts of the world are individual men and women, a disproportionately large number of them in positions of leadership, who have come under the influences of Christian missionaries, have been trained in Christian schools and colleges, and have truly caught the spirit of Christ and its meaning for today among their own people.

From all these activities and influences have developed "younger" churches, and more and more the work of missionaries from abroad is being brought into full and reciprocal partnership with these churches and their vigorous and devoted leaders.

World-wide Connections

As for Europe, not ordinarily considered a mission field, there have been mutually helpful relationships between American churches and those of the same historic backgrounds, as for example those of the Lutheran order and those of the Reformed or Presbyterian order. Furthermore, the Protestant Episcopal Church in America has had special ties not only with its parent body, the Church of England, but also with the Eastern Orthodox Churches and the Old Catholic body. The Foreign Missions Conference has served as a channel for cooperative planning and action as and where it might be found useful. And now, the World Council of Churches, closely linked with the International Missionary Council, is the common meeting place for all our national units — from America, and Europe, and every other part of the globe — for studying together the Christian foundations of our social structure, for facing together the great moral and spiritual issues of our day, for exchanging divergent points of view and for discovering together the richness of fellowship found in things of the spirit.

Knowledge is Needed

All these matters, concerning the life and work of our churches abroad and their services in this country, need not only the financial undergirding but also the prayers and personal support of all our members. But before people can be expected to do very much, they must be informed and enlightened. This is the task which the Missionary Education Movement, in which twenty-nine denominations cooperate, has been performing for almost a full half century. Its study books and leadership training programs have been widely used, its informational material is of universal applicability and interest, and it has pioneered in the use of audio-visual aids. Its functioning as a clearing house in this great important area of church life has prevented much duplication and wastage.

Post-war Emergencies

The foregoing activities in eight particular fields of church responsibility represent ongoing opportunities and long-range objectives. During the past few years, however, there has been a very special activity which has rightly claimed a high degree of priority, namely overseas relief and reconstruction in the wake of the war. Some of this has been channeled directly to connectional church bodies in war-stricken lands. A large measure of this help, in money and in contributed goods, has been forwarded through the special agency established for that purpose by the cooperating denominations — Church World Service. In this undertaking, unified activity within the total body of Protestant and Orthodox churches reached new levels both in spirit and in actual material participation. In every country relief was administered by the indigenous church agencies and personnel, thus assuring familiarity with local conditions, and the wisest and most dependable utilization of money and supplies. In addition to the thousands of tons of clothing, food, medicines, and other material goods, funds were furnished to help in the restoration of normal church activities, to replace or repair and to re-equip church institutions such as hospitals, orphan homes, and deaconess homes;



KNOWLEDGE SUPPORTED by spiritual and moral values will shape a better world. Below, THE NEEDS of war victims are answered by Christian help.





The heart of our nation's strength is rooted in its spiritual heritage and symbolized by its churches.

to initiate youth programs for the salvaging of the homeless thousands of boys and girls; to provide Bibles, hymnbooks, and other Christian literature; to assist in the training of new leaders; to provide a ministry of health to exhausted and ill pastors and other church workers; to supplement the meager salaries of such key personnel; to render a spiritual ministry through chaplaincies among the millions of refugees; to assist in the resettlement of Displaced Persons; and to extend in every way possible the helping hand of true Christian brotherhood to all in need.

Demonstration of Christian Fellowship

This work, in some fifty different countries, has provided a most compelling demonstration of the power of Christian love. We must not forget that the lift given to men's spirits by the knowledge that they have Christian friends thinking of them is equal to the help for the body provided by the warm clothing or the nourishing food. And on the community level in this country, as well as in the receiving lands,

these ministries of relief and reconstruction have drawn the people of our churches more closely together than any other undertaking in their experience. There is still much to be done in interchurch aid, even though the acute stage of the emergency has somewhat abated. The new National Council will naturally afford a proper facility for the continuance of such cooperative work in relief and rehabilitation.

Creative Building

Yes, all in all, it is a thrilling tale of fellowship in Christian striving and serving. The activities which have been outlined are all proceeding now, and will be better coordinated and given added strength when the new National Council is constituted in Cleveland, November 28 to December 1, 1950.

The National Council needs the full understanding and support of every one of the twenty-seven million members of the cooperating churches. This new step for the more effective consolidation of service is only a milestone of progress. This land of ours rests upon Christian foundations. We must see to it that the superstructure maintains the same lines and proportions and solid stability. Can we count on *YOU*?

The National Council

Will Help *You* and *Your* Church

- 1... by providing an authentic *expression of the Christian conscience* in matters of religious liberty, human rights, family life, social welfare, world peace, emergency relief needs, and other major moral issues.
- 2... by *promoting cooperative campaigns for evangelism and stewardship*, and by *providing service* to special groups such as migrants, share-croppers, and new Americans.
- 3... by sponsoring and supporting *leadership institutes*, training schools, summer conferences, youth programs and similar activities.
- 4... by presenting cooperatively on *college and university campuses* the central appeal for Christian commitment in one's life and vocation, including service in the ministry at home or abroad.
- 5... by *linking youth and laymen* in Christian thought and action with other youth and laymen beyond their own denominational connections.
- 6... by emphasizing the Church's contribution to *mental and physical health* and strengthening interdenominational chaplaincy service to hospitals, prisons and other institutions.
- 7... by serving as a *clearing house* for full reports and statistics bearing on church membership, attendance, benevolent giving, denominational organizations and other useful information.
- 8... by developing a sense of *world-wide fellowship* with sister churches overseas.
- 9... by presenting in common terms the great appeals of *home and foreign missions*, for adequate financial support and for consecrated and well-equipped leadership personnel.
- 10... by making *missionary giving and missionary service* more effective through united planning and coordinated use of all resources.
- 11... by providing *publicity, program and study materials* for missionary education, week-day religious education, social legislation, public issues with Christian implications.
- 12... by offering a *single inclusive agency* to deal with the *Armed Services* with respect to the Chaplaincy, or on special matters with other *governmental agencies*.
- 13... by *representing united American Protestant interests*, when necessary or desirable, in relation to the government in Washington.
- 14... by working constructively in areas of *radio, television, and moving pictures*, both for the improvement of commercial programs and for using these media to interpret Christian ideals.
- 15... by offering expert counsel respecting *church architecture* and building programs.
- 16... by preparing and publishing *Sunday school lessons, Aids to Worship*, and notably the *Revised Standard Version of the Bible*.
- 17... by bringing together for mutual consultation and cooperation *denominational specialists* in many fields of activity, such as publicity, finance, rural or urban problems, both at home and abroad.
- 18... by encouraging and assisting in the *establishment of local councils* of churches, of Church women, of laymen, and of youth, for the sake of making the Christian faith a more vital force in community life, and providing for it a more effective means of Christian service.
- 19... by linking the churches and stimulating their efforts through *joint observances* such as World Wide Communion, Race Relations Sunday, Religious Education Week, World Day of Prayer, Reformation Sunday, and the Lenten Fellowship of Prayer.



Questions and Answers

What is the purpose of the National Council?

To create an inclusive, cooperative agency as a means of continuing, coordinating and extending the basic functions and objectives of eight existing national interdenominational agencies.

What are the eight agencies?

Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

Foreign Missions Conference of North America

Home Missions Council of North America

International Council of Religious Education

Missionary Education Movement of the U.S. and Canada.

National Protestant Council on Higher Education

United Council of Church Women

United Stewardship Council

Does this mean that these separate agencies will no longer function?

Yes; they will no longer be operated as separate agencies. (In certain cases, corporate structures will be preserved for legal purposes, such as trust funds and bequests.)



And a little child shall lead them. The answer to the world's future is in the Christian training of the children of today.

Will any of the present work of these agencies be eliminated?

No; there will be a consolidation of certain programs in order to eliminate duplication but it is planned that all present services and projects of participating agencies will be continued through some Division or Department of the National Council.

Who will determine the policies of the National Council?

The constituent churches through their own representatives on the Council and its executive committee.

Do the agencies themselves favor the plan?

Yes; the proposal originated with the agencies themselves and they have officially approved the proposal.

Do the state councils of churches favor this plan?

Yes; it has been officially approved by 29 state councils, with action yet to be taken in the others.

Do the denominations favor this plan?

The proposal has already been officially approved by 25 ecclesiastical bodies, representing more than 26,000,000 church members:

The Methodist Church
National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. Inc.
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
Disciples of Christ
The Protestant Episcopal Church
Northern Baptist Convention
Congregational Christian Churches
African Methodist Episcopal Church
The Evangelical United Brethren Church
Evangelical and Reformed Church
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Colored Methodist Episcopal Church
Russian Orthodox Church
United Presbyterian Church of N. A.
Church of the Brethren
Reformed Church in America
Religious Society of Friends—Five Years Meeting
Roumanian Orthodox Church
Moravian Church (Northern and Southern Province)
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of America
Syrian Antiochian Orthodox Church
Seventh Day Baptists
Religious Society of Friends of Philadelphia and Vicinity
Evangelical Unity of Czech-Moravian Brethren in N. A.

Does this proposal involve the merger of denominations?

No; this plan calls for the uniting of interdenominational agencies, not a merger of denominations. The proposal is for cooperation, not organic union of denominations.

What is the origin of this proposal?

A conference held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, in December, 1941, attended by 25 representatives from each agency, received reports from Joint Study Committees and unanimously recommended "the creation of a single corporate agency to succeed all of the existing councils."

When will the Constituting Convention be held?

The Constituting Convention will be held November 28—December 1, 1950, in Cleveland, Ohio, with the final exercises of dedication held on Friday evening, December 1.



YOUTH SPEAKS for a world yet unborn, a promise unkept, a hope unfulfilled.



THE CROSS stands as a symbol of equality for these American Indians, and for all minority groups. *Below*, Church women plan a campaign of action.





The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

will consolidate the following eight interdenominational agencies

The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America

Is a federation of 23 Protestant and 4 Eastern Orthodox national church bodies for cooperative work in evangelism, social service and in advancing Christian influence in all human relations.

The Foreign Missions Conference of North America

Is the agency which enables 54 denominations with 99 mission boards in the United States and Canada to plan and carry through common programs of evangelism and service in Africa, Asia, the Near East, Latin America, and to plan cooperative action with European churches for world-wide evangelization.

The Home Missions Council of North America

Is the organization through which 37 home mission boards of 22 major Protestant denominations exchange information and plans for their various ministries to special groups or in particular situations.

The International Council of Religious Education

Provides the means for closer cooperation among 40 denominational boards of Christian Education and 33 state councils of churches in such services as leadership education, educational evangelism and Sunday, week-day and

vacation school programs for children, young people, and adults.

The Missionary Education Movement of the U. S. and Canada

Represents the boards of home and foreign missions, departments of missionary education, and boards of Christian Education of 29 denominations in training leaders and in publishing books, pamphlets, maps, and teaching aids regarding the mission of the Church in North America and overseas.

The National Protestant Council on Higher Education

Represents the Protestant colleges of the United States, and the voluntary student work of boards of Christian education in public-supported and independent colleges and universities.

The United Council of Church Women

Works through its 1600 state and local councils and its 12,000 World Day of Prayer Groups to help focus united Christian influence on problems of world peace, race relations, child welfare, family life, housing, community betterment, and overseas relief.

The United Stewardship Council

Is a voluntary association of 28 communions of the United States and Canada for the promotion of Christian stewardship of time, abilities, and material possessions.

National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.

Committees on Planning, Program and Procedures

DR. LUTHER A. WEIGLE, Chairman of
the Planning Committee

DR. SAMUEL MCCREA CAVERT,
Chairman, Committee on Program
and Procedures

Mrs. Jesse M. Bader
Dr. G. Pitt Beers
Dr. P. O. Bersell
Archbishop Bohdan
Mr. Donald C. Bolles
Mrs. J. D. Bragg
Miss Helen M. Brickman
Dr. Arlo Ayres Brown
Dr. Hugh C. Burr
Dr. E. Fay Campbell
Dr. Franklin D. Cogswell
Mrs. H. G. Colwell
Dr. Paul H. Conrad
Dr. Gaines M. Cook
Dr. H. D. Davies
Rev. Raymond A. Dudley
Dr. Truman B. Douglass
Dr. Errol T. Elliott
Dr. Frederick L. Fagley
Dr. Wynn C. Fairfield
Rev. David I. Forsyth
Dr. Franklin C. Fry
Dr. Robert W. Gibson
Dr. Louis W. Goebel
Dr. Luther A. Gotwald
Dr. Ivan M. Gould
Dr. Edward D. Grant
Mr. Francis S. Harmon
Miss Mabel Head
Dr. James E. Hoffman
Bishop Ivan Lee Holt
Dr. Douglas Horton
Dr. W. H. Jernagin
Miss Helen Kenyon
Dr. Gerald E. Knoff
Dr. W. E. Lampe

Dr. Byron S. Lamson
Mrs. Abram LeGrand
Miss Elizabeth M. Lee
Dr. Gilbert Q. LeSourd
Dr. Arthur H. Limouze
Miss Edith E. Lowry
Rev. S. Franklin Mack
Mrs. W. Murdoch MacLeod
Mrs. William H. Medlicott
Dr. J. Quinter Miller
Dr. Hermann N. Morse
Dr. Reuben H. Mueller
Dr. Bernard J. Mulder
Dr. Harry S. Myers
Dr. I. George Nace
Bishop D. Ward Nichols
Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam
Mr. C. D. Pantle
Dr. Paul Calvin Payne
Dr. Raymond R. Peters
Dr. William Barrow Pugh
Dr. Glenn P. Reed
Dr. Roy G. Ross
Dr. John Q. Schisler
Dr. Franklin I. Sheeder
Mrs. Arthur M. Sherman
Rt. Rev. Henry Knox Sherrill
Mrs. Harper Sibley
Dr. Luther W. Smith
Bishop John S. Stamm
Dr. Dorothy A. Stevens
Dr. Harry T. Stock
Dr. Stanley I. Stuber
Mrs. William S. Terrell
Dr. Gould Wickey
Dr. Horace Williams

The Planning Committee for the

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.

Dr. Earl Frederick Adams, Executive Secretary

156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, New York

Why it was named:

“THE”

- . . . Because it will be one great Protestant and Orthodox agency, instead of several.

“NATIONAL”

- . . . Because it will deal with the Christian tasks and problems that concern the nation as a whole.

“COUNCIL”

- . . . Because it is composed of denominations organized for mutual consultation and to undertake and carry on such activities as will help to exalt Christ in all our life.

“OF THE CHURCHES”

- . . . Because, in a very real sense, it is to be the agency of the individual churches, working through their denominational organizations and representatives.

“OF CHRIST”

- . . . Because the constituent churches are all impelled by their common allegiance to Jesus Christ as Divine Lord and Savior.

“IN THE U. S. A.”

- . . . Because it is primarily designed to serve as an instrument of cooperation among the churches of the United States of America.

Therefore:

“NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.”